

# Rural & Urban Utahns Cast Support For Farmland Protection In Quality Growth Survey

Most Utahns want farmland protected, the state to offer leadership, and local government to maintain control in land-use decisions. Those were three of the findings in a state-wide survey conducted by the Utah Quality Growth Commission.

The survey was conducted to sample public opinion and help the Commission draft its Principles of Quality Growth. Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Cary G. Peterson surveyed the public's concerns about growth at three town meetings in Wayne, Sanpete and Juab Counties in December of 1999. Residents in all three counties said they were "very concerned" about growth. They offered mix feelings whether growth was positive or negative. Results from a few of the questions follows:

**Agricultural land which has been identified by the local community as important for agriculture should be conserved for ag. purposes if it can be done without violating the rights associated with private land ownership.**

Juab Co.:	23% strongly disagree	* 0% disagree	* 0% neither agree or disagree	* 38% agree	* 38% strongly agree	* 0% no opinion
Wayne Co.:	0% strongly disagree	* 0% disagree	* 0% neither agree or disagree	* 60% agree	* 40% strongly agree	* 0% no opinion
Sanpete Co.:	12% strongly disagree	* 6% disagree	* 6% neither agree or disagree	* 65% agree	* 12% strongly agree	* 0% no opinion
Statewide:	6% strongly disagree	* 6% disagree	* 3% neither agree or disagree	* 47% agree	* 39% strongly agree	* 0% no opinion

**State Government should provide leadership and coordination among state agencies and local governments while ensuring that local governments maintain control in land-use decisions.**

Juab Co.:	0% strongly disagree	* 8% disagree	* 8% neither agree or disagree	* 54% agree	* 31% strongly agree	* 0% no opinion
Wayne Co.:	0% strongly disagree	* 0% disagree	* 0% neither agree or disagree	* 57% agree	* 43% strongly agree	* 0% no opinion
Sanpete Co.:	12% strongly disagree	* 0% disagree	* 0% neither agree or disagree	* 65% agree	* 24% strongly agree	* 0% no opinion
Statewide:	4% strongly disagree	* 6% disagree	* 8% neither agree or disagree	* 47% agree	* 35% strongly agree	* 0% no opinion

**The rights associated with private land ownership should be protected during the implementation of growth management strategies.**

Juab Co.:	8% strongly disagree	* 17% disagree	* 0% neither agree or disagree	* 50% agree	* 25% strongly agree	* 0% no opinion
Wayne Co.:	0% strongly disagree	* 0% disagree	* 7% neither agree or disagree	* 67% agree	* 27% strongly agree	* 0% no opinion
Sanpete Co.:	7% strongly disagree	* 0% disagree	* 7% neither agree or disagree	* 64% agree	* 21% strongly agree	* 0% no opinion
Statewide:	5% strongly disagree	* 2% disagree	* 6% neither agree or disagree	* 56% agree	* 31% strongly agree	* 0% no opinion

## RESOLUTION URGING FED. FUNDING TO FIGHT GRASSHOPPER AND CRICKETS INTRODUCED BY REP. GOWANS

A concurrent resolution of the Utah Legislature and the Governor, aimed at fighting an expected large outbreak of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets, was offered on day one of the 2000 legislative session on January 17.

HCR001, authored by Tooele rancher, Rep. James Gowans, seeks action by the U.S. Congress to appropriate funds to fight Utah's Mormon cricket and grasshopper infestation. The resolution states, " WHEREAS, 1.5 million acres of land in the state of Utah is infested with crickets and grasshoppers; WHEREAS, crickets and

grasshoppers have migrated from federal land, where no insecticides were sprayed, to surrounding private lands; WHEREAS, Governor Leavitt issued a declaration of agricultural disaster.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, urge the United States Congress to provide funds sufficient to relieve Utahns of the devastating economic impact of the state's cricket and grasshopper infestation."

If passed, a copy of the resolution will be sent to the President of the U. S. Senate, the Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the members of Utah's congressional delegation.

# UTAH AG NEWS

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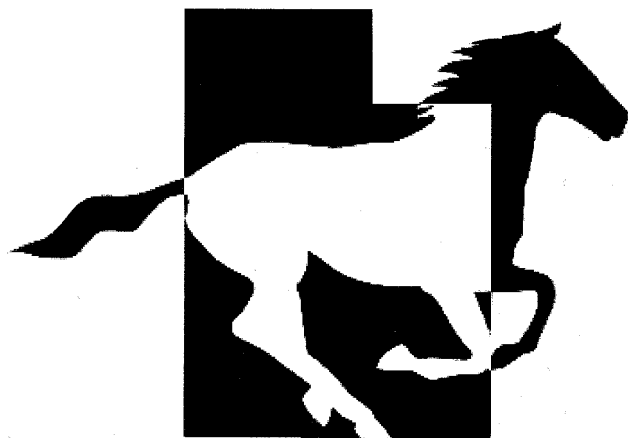
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Governor  
Commissioner of Agriculture and Food  
Public Information Office Editor

Michael O. Leavitt  
Cary G. Peterson  
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## Utah Horse Expo 2000 Set For March 10 to 12

The state's largest horse exposition of the year is set for March 10, 11 and 12, as the 2000 Utah Horse Expo comes to the Salt Lake County Equestrian Park, 10800 South 2200 West, South Jordan, Utah.

Horse ownership in Utah is one of the largest industries in Utah. Owners of Utah's horse herd, estimated at 183,000 animals, spend more than \$150 million per year on feed, boarding and medical services. The Expo offers horse owners the opportunity to view new products and services and gain needed information about their industry. Featured attractions of the show are:

Farrier demonstrations, designed to provide information regarding proper hoof care, general and corrective shoeing.

Information on health related products and services as well as nutrition, general care and maintenance.

A fashion show to display the latest in show apparel as well as a wide variety of other clothing items and accessories.

### Veterinarian Care and Chiropractic Therapy Seminars

A number of current and important topics will be discussed by well know Veterinarians topics such as: colic, emergency horse care, basic horse care, horse re-

production, and what to look for when purchasing your first horse.

### Horse Demonstrations

A small arena will be set up to provide spectators the opportunity to view a variety of horse demonstrations. A pack horse demonstration will be presented for those interested in back country pack trips. Rodeo Royalty will be in attendance during the Expo to meet the general public and promote the horse industry.

### Horses Big and Small

A Horse Expo would not be an Expo unless there were horses, through out the Expo horses of all sizes will be used in various ways to promote the Horse Industry.

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### USDA Agricultural Prices

Prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers during mid-December were down for baled alfalfa hay, barley, and milk, and unchanged for other hay, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service.

The Utah mid-December all milk price was \$13.60 per cwt, down 20 cents from the previous month and down \$4.00 from December 1998.

Barley, at \$1.83 per bushel, was down four cents from the previous month's price and the same as December 1998. Baled alfalfa hay was \$75.00 per ton, down \$2.00 from last month and the same as December 1998. Other hay, at \$35.00 per ton, was unchanged from last month but \$16.00 lower than December 1998.

The lamb price for November 1999 was \$79.00 per cwt, up \$9.00 from October, and up \$20.00 from November of last year. The November 1999 sheep price at \$25.00, was \$5.00 more than October, up \$4.00 from November of last year.

### Utah Agribusiness Advisory Council Seeks Removal Of "Unfair" Liquor Tax Imposed On Utah Wine Makers

Seeking to level the tax playing field and promote rural economics, the Utah Agribusiness Advisory Council unanimously voted to seek legislation to restructure portions of the state liquor law that charge Utah wine-makers a 30 percent "mark up" tax imposed at producers' private retail stores. Utah winemakers say the tax is apparently being leveled by mistake.

Arches Winery owner Colin Fryer told the council that when their wine is sold at Utah Alcohol Beverage control stores a state tax of 30 percent is added to pay for state operating overhead costs such as utilities, employment and marketing. Fryer says the state also adds that 30 percent tax to wine sold from his private retail store in Moab, Utah. Fryer also said that Utah does not charge wineries in other states or countries the 30 percent tax.

Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Cary G. Peterson supports the tax modification saying that such a sizable tax is threatening the viability of the wineries that rely on an agricultural product—grapes.

"The removal of this tax will not increase the consumption of alcohol, but will economically strengthen one aspect of our industry," Peterson said.

The tax change was also supported by the Executive Director of the Department of Community and Economic Development, David Winder.

Currently there is nearly a 50 percent tax on wine sold by the state's six private wineries: A 30 percent "Markup tax", a 13 percent school lunch tax and the 6.25 percent sales tax.

Fryer says only 20 percent of the 5,000 gallons of wine that Arches produces each year is sold in state liquor stores. The remaining 80 percent is sold at its Moab winery tasting room.

Fryer also said, "A Utah wine industry would put Utah land and farmers to work." He added, "Wine grapes is a crop that can be grown on smaller plots of land, consumes less water and requires less expensive equipment than many of our traditional crops."